

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 01 2015

RE: S.R. No. 122

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.R.  
No. 122 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
ESTABLISH A PILOT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FLAG RUGBY PROGRAM AIMED  
AT REDUCING RISKY BEHAVIORS AND INCARCERATION RATES AMONG  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER YOUTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Encourage the Department of Education to establish a pilot youth development flag rugby program at middle and intermediate schools in the Nanakuli-Waianae, Kau-Keaau-Pahoa, and Castle-Kahuku Complex Areas aimed at engaging Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth for the purpose of reducing risky behaviors and incarceration rates;
- (2) Request the Department of Education to determine the costs of the pilot program and identify funding sources for its implementation; and
- (3) Request the pilot program to compile quantitative and qualitative data to demonstrate the pilot program's impact upon Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth.

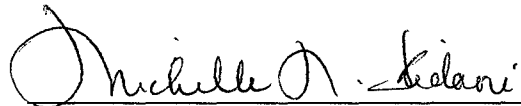
Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Hawaii State Teachers Association.



Your Committee finds that youth development programs are effective in providing positive influences for young people. A pilot youth flag rugby program may be an outlet for at-risk youth to direct their energy in a positive way. Establishing a flag rugby program would help fill the current void of after-school athletics for public middle and intermediate school students, and could help young Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders avoid risky behaviors, and ultimately incarceration, rates of which are disproportionately high among those communities. Such a program may offer mentorship; positive support; and the physical, social, and educational stimulation needed to keep at-risk youth engaged in school and motivated to succeed.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 122 and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Education,

  
MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Education**  
**EDU**

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes